

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A grinding method comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of grinding wheels;

selecting a predetermined grinding wheel from the plurality of grinding wheels;

simultaneously grinding plural grinding portions of a workpiece using plural grinding wheels, wherein the step of selecting a predetermined grinding wheel from the plurality of grinding wheels is performed prior to said step of simultaneously grinding plural grinding portions of a workpiece using the plural grinding wheels;

individually controlling each of said grinding wheels during said grinding step; and

controlling said grinding step such that grinding by the predetermined grinding wheel is terminated prior to a termination of grinding by the other grinding wheel,

wherein said predetermined grinding wheel remains in contact with said grinding portion after said termination of grinding; and

said predetermined grinding wheel is retracted at first in slow speed at the same time with the other grinding wheel after said termination of said grinding by the other grinding wheel and then in rapid speed.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): A grinding method according to claim 1, wherein said grinding step includes plural grinding portions; and

each said grinding portion has the same content for each said grinding wheel.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A grinding method according to claim 2, wherein a grinding condition of said each grinding portion by said each grinding wheel is changed according to a result of measuring said grinding portions.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): A grinding method according to claim 1, wherein said each grinding step by each grinding wheel has plural grinding portions of different velocity of a grinding feed; and

a removable amount of said grinding portion by said predetermined grinding wheel is set less than a removable amount of said grinding portion by the other grinding wheel in a slower grinding feed velocity portion of said grinding step.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): A grinding method according to claim 1, wherein said grinding step by the other grinding wheel starts a predetermined time after a start of said grinding step by said predetermined grinding wheel.

Claim 6 (Cancelled).